

Energy has security role, CIA chief says

By ED JAHN
Post Reporter

The increasing role of energy in world affairs brought CIA Director Stansfield Turner to Houston Wednesday to explain the rules of today's "intelligence game."

Turner, who spoke to businessmen at a private Houston Club luncheon here, told reporters before his speech that the Central Intelligence Agency considers energy "essential to the security of the United States."

He explained that "when the price (of energy) is pushed up and somebody doesn't get what they want" there can be wide-ranging problems for the Free World.

Although the secret information-gathering agency collects even the most minute details about foreign economic production, it must keep its distance from U.S. corporations, he admitted.

Asked if the CIA would have looked into Korean influence-peddling in the United States or collusive price agreements between American and Japanese companies, Turner said, "Absolutely not."

However, if sleuths happened onto the information indirectly, it would be the responsibility of the CIA to turn over the information to the U.S. attorney general, he explained.

An example of how the CIA provides information helpful to U.S. industrial advancement is the recent case of the Soviet spy satellite that plunged into Canada, he said.

Not only does scrutiny of the satellite wreckage show how advanced space technology in the U.S.S.R. has become, Turner said, but it also shows to what degree new metals are being used and how refined the Soviets have become with in-

strumentation and design.

A good deal of Turner's visit to Houston will be spent on polishing up the tarnished CIA image, and although wary of the reporters questioning him, he said he welcomed their cooperation with the CIA.

In past months the agency has been criticized by the news media for covertly recruiting news personnel for information-gathering.

"We don't have any paid or contractual agents" from the American news media at this time, Turner said. "But if any of you (reporters) want to come to

me and voluntarily say you have something useful to me, you're welcome."

Since Turner was appointed CIA director by his Annapolis classmate, President Carter in January 1977, he has held 170 private briefings for members of the American media, he said.

"Leaks, unfortunately through you, the media" have occasionally endangered the security of the U.S. "It's your ethical problem," he said.

He said it was up to the media to use its judgment in deciding when keeping the public informed left off and the responsibility of citizens to protect the security of their country began.